



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS SEIZE MORE THAN A HALF MILLION IN U.S. CURRENCY DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Several traffic stops by Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers along with efforts by DPS Criminal Investigators resulted in the seizure of \$623,933 in drug money during August 2007. All of the money seized was U.S. currency.

The largest money seizure by DPS during a single traffic stop occurred on Aug. 2 when a DPS canine officer stopped a vehicle on the westbound lanes of Interstate 40 near Flagstaff for a traffic violation. With the assistance of canine "Barry," a subsequent search of the 2004 Ford pickup truck revealed \$347,435 in cash hidden in the vehicle's spare tire.

"Drug couriers continue to pass through Arizona with cash, drugs and weapons. DPS officers are out there everyday seizing this contraband, including the cash, that is typically profits taken from the drug trade and often used to further finance the manufacturing, sale and distribution of illegal drugs in Arizona and across the country. The seizure of more than half a million dollars in drug money by DPS in August shows the enormous scope of the problem," said Director Roger Vanderpool of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.